

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 5, 9, 13 and 18. Claims 19-25 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original) A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

receiving first stage information and second stage information, the first stage information and the second stage information input at the second stage;

processing the first stage information and the second stage information so that the first stage information is associated with the second stage information; and

storing the first stage information and the second stage information in a database, wherein the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are at least accessible at the second stage.

Claim 2. (original) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are accessible at the second stage and at least one successive stage in the supply chain.

Claim 3. (original) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first stage is a producer stage and the second stage is a processing stage.

Claim 4. (original) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 3, wherein

the first stage information includes at least one of producer name, producer address, producer phone number and inventory information.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 4, wherein

the first stage information includes the inventory information and the inventory information includes at least one of crop type, crop variety, crop moisture, protein and test weight.

Claim 6. (original) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the second stage information includes at least one of planning data, storage data, milling data, packaging data, data indicative of yields in production, finished product storage data and shipping data.

Claim 7. (original) The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first stage information is input at the second stage because the first stage is a non-participant in a transactional supply chain system and the second stage is a participant in the transactional supply chain system.

Claim 8. (original) A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

receiving first stage agricultural information and second stage agricultural information, the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information input at the second stage;

processing the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information so that the first stage agricultural information is associated with the second stage agricultural information; and

storing the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information in a database, wherein

the stored first stage agricultural information and the stored second stage agricultural information are at least accessible at the second stage and at least one successive stage in the supply chain,

and the first stage is one of a producer stage and a processing stage, and the second stage is one of a processing stage, a storage stage and a manufacturing stage.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first path of the non-linear supply chain; and

recording available inventory information associated with the first item at a stage along the first path;

recording a history of a second item traversing a second path of the non-linear supply chain; and

recording available inventory information associated with the second item at a stage along the second path, wherein

the first path and the second path are a first output and a second output, respectively, of a multi-output stage in the non-linear supply chain, and

inventory is controlled at a stage subsequent to one of the stage along the first path and the stage along the second path according to one of the recorded available inventory information associated with the first item and the recorded available inventory information associated with the second item, respectively.

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Claim 10. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein

the first path includes at least one multi-output stage, the first item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs of the multi-output stage along the first path.

Claim 11. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein

the second path includes at least one multi-output stage, the second item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs of the multi-output stage along the second path.

Claim 12. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to another stage with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 12, wherein .

the other stage is one of the multi-output stage and the stage along the first path.

Claim 14. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the second item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to another stage with the second item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

Claim 15. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and, wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes

associating the information applying to the stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item.

Claim 16. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and

associating second information applying to another stage with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes

associating the first information applying to the stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item and

associating the second information applying to the other stage with the second item.

Claim 17. (original) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting the first information and the second information to at least one individual of a plurality of individuals within or outside the non-linear supply chain, the first information and the second information informing the at least one individual about the history of at least the first item.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first path of the non-linear supply chain by associating first information applying to a first stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first path including the first stage and a second stage and the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to the second stage with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information; and

recording available inventory information associated with the first item at one of the first stage and the second stage;

recording a history of a second item traversing a second path of the non-linear supply chain by associating the first information applying to the first stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item, the second path including the first stage and a third stage, and

associating third information applying to the third stage with the second item, the third information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information;

recording available inventory information associated with the second item at one of the first stage and the third stage; and

transmitting the first information, the second information and the third information to at least one individual of a plurality of individuals within or outside the non-linear supply chain, the first information, the second information and the third information informing the at least one individual about the history of the first item and the second item, wherein

the first stage is a multi-output stage having at least two outputs, and

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inventory is controlled at a stage subsequent to one of the first stage, the second stage and the third stage according to one of the recorded available inventory information associated with the first item, the recorded available inventory information associated with the second item, and the recorded available inventory information associated with the third item, respectively.

Claim 19. (new) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 12, wherein

the stage is one of the multi-output stage and the stage along the first path.

Claim 20. (new) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 14, wherein

the stage is one of the multi-output stage and the stage along the second path.

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Claim 21. (new) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 14, wherein

the other stage is one of the multi-output stage and the stage along the second path.

Claim 22. (new) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 15, wherein

the stage is the multi-output stage.

Claim 23. (new) The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 16, wherein

one of the stage and the other stage is the multi-output stage.

Claim 24. (new) A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first path of the non-linear supply chain;
recording available inventory information associated with the first item at a stage along the first path; and

recording a history of a second item traversing a second path of the non-linear supply chain, wherein

the first path and the second path are a first output and a second output, respectively, of a multi-output stage in the non-linear supply chain, and

inventory is controlled at a stage subsequent to the stage along the first path according to the recorded available inventory information.

Claim 25. (new) A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first path of the non-linear supply chain;

recording a history of a second item traversing a second path of the non-linear supply chain, the first path and the second path are a first output and a second output, respectively, of a multi-output stage in the non-linear supply chain; and

recording available inventory information associated with at least one of the first item and the second item at the multi-output stage, wherein

inventory is controlled at a stage subsequent to the multi-output stage according to the recorded available inventory information.